

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please make the following changes to the 2nd paragraph on page 8 of the Specification:

Preferably, the nucleotide sequence modified encodes the amino acid sequence:

$X_1X_2X_3VSX$ (SEQ. ID. NO.: 6) where $X_4 = N, H$ or L

$X_2 = V$ or Y

$X_3 = S$ or N

$X_4 =$ an aliphatic amino acid, especially V or L .

Please make the following changes to the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9 of the Specification:

One possible way of modifying the nucleotide sequence is simply deleting nucleotides so that two or more amino acids are deleted from the final modified antibody heavy chain. The inventors have realized that this is potentially disadvantageous. The cysteine residue which is usually found two amino acids from the C-terminus end of the heavy chain, is involved in the binding of J-chain polypeptides. J-chain polypeptides allow the formation of dimeric antibodies or pentameric antibodies and improve the stability of the secreted antibodies. There is therefore a need to retain or replace the cysteine residue at this position. Accordingly, some of the nucleotides encoding the C-terminus 18 amino acids of the completed heavy chain may be deleted and replaced by a synthetic nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence and general formula:

$-(Xaa_1)_mC(Xaa_2)_n$

where: C = cysteine residue

Xaa_1 = independently any amino acid with the proviso that it is not selected from I, L or forms a consecutive sequence $X_1X_2X_3VSX_4$ (SEQ. ID. NO.: 6)

where: $X_1 = N, H$ or L

$X_2 = V$ or Y

$X_3 = S$ or N

$X_4 =$ aliphatic amino acid

Xaa₂ = independently any amino acid

m = an integer of at least 2

n = an integer of 0 to 5.

Please make the following changes to the paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11 of the Specification:

Preferably, the antibodies of the invention do not contain the targeting signal:

X₁X₂X₃V S X₄ (SEQ. ID. NO.: 6)

Where: X₁ = N, H or L

X₂ = V or Y

X₃ = S or N

X₄ = aliphatic amino acid.